

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SCCT-01

OIC-02 /093 W

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R 271135Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3498

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 0379

E.O. GDS

TAGS: ELAB PORG MO

SUBJ: ILO POLITICS IN MOROCCO

1. SUMMARY: RECENT VISIT TO MOROCCO OF ILO SEC GEN BLANCHARD WAS PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS PLO OBSERVER AND OTHER ME RELATED QUESTIONS. BLANCHARD AND MOROCCAN LAB MIN KHATIBPU(WHO CURRENTLY PRE-SIDING GOVT BODY) REPORTEDLY BELIEVE PLO RES WILL CARRY THUS THREATENING US WORKER SUPPORT FOR ILO. MAHJOUB BEN SEDDIK WILL BE CANDIDATE WORKER DEL GOVERNING BODY: IN SPITE OF HIS PAST RHETORIC HE SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS ENTIRELY HOSTILE TO US INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION SOURCES, INCLUDING UNION MAROCAINE DU TRAVAIL (UMT) SEC GEN MAHJOUB BEN SEDDIK.

3. RECENT VISIT TO MOROCCO OF ILO SEC GEN BLANCHARD WAS PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST RELATED MATTERS WHICH WILL BE BROUGHT UP
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AT JUNE MEETING ILO GOVERNING BODY IN GENEVA. FOREMOST AMONG

THESE IS ISSUE OF OBSERVER YOUS FOR PLO, BUT ALSO CONSIDERED
IMPORTANT ARE SEVERAL OTHER RESES CRITICAL OF ISRAEL.

4. BLANCHARD MET ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WITH MOROCCAN LAB MIN
KHATIBI WHO IS CURRENTLY PRESIDING OVER GOVERNING BODY. KHATIBI
IS WIDELY VIEWED AS HIGHLY CAPABLE AND MODERATE SPECIALIST IN
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS. MAIN CONCERN OF BLANCHARD
AND KHATIBI IS THAT PLO RES WILL CARRY AND AS A RESULT U.S. WILL
AGAIN WITHHOLD ITS FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF ILO. BLANCHARD ALSO MET
WITH BEN SEDDIK AND APPARENTLY RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT BEN
GEDDIK WOULD NOT FIGHT FOR PLO RES.

5. BEN SEDDIK, LONG ACTIVE IN ILO AFFAIRS, WILL ONCE AGAIN BE
CANDIDATE WORKER DEL TO GOVERNING BODY. ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVES HE
WILL BE ELECTED, MANY, INCLUDING US WORKER DEL IRVING BROWN,
ARE NOT SO SURE. IF BEN SEDDIK IS ELECTED HE CAN BE EXPECTED
TO PLAY AS MODERATE A ROLE AS POSSIBLE ON ME ISSUES CONSISTENT
HIS "ARAB RADICAL" CREDENTIAL.

6. BROWN, WHO HAS BEEN CLOSE TO BEN SEDDIK FOR YEARS, HAS JUST
ENDED TWO DAY VISIT HERE DURING WHICH HE HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS
WITH HIM ON ILO AFFAIRS. WE DO NOT EXPECT BROWN TO OPPOSE BEN
SEDDIK CANDIDACY AT GENEVA.

7. BEN SEDDIK HAS BEEN HAVING HIS POLITICAL TROUBLES AT HOME
IN RECENT YEARS AND IS NOW SEEKING A COMEBACK IN INTERNATIONAL
TRADE UNION AFFAIRS. ALTHOUGH HE HAS IN PAST BEEN HIGHLY
CRITICAL OF US POLICIES IN THIRD WORLD WE ENJOY CLOSE PERSONAL
RELATIONS WITH HIM AND DO NOT CONSIDER HIM ENTIRELY HOSTILE TO OUR
INTERESTS.
BRUBECK

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